

NEW YORK  
HERALD TRIBUNE

APR 3 1964

NEW YORK  
**Herald Tribune**

FOUNDED by HORACE GREELEY, APRIL 10, 1841

18

Friday, April 3, 1964

▽

## Senator, Have a Cigar!

Sen. Fulbright has earned one; so has Sen. Sparkman—a cigar from Che (rhymes with hay) Guevara. And not because Che doesn't know what to do with Cuba's cigars (he confessed at a press conference in Geneva that Cuba is stuck with its cigars because they had been prepared especially for yanqui tastes), but rather because they have done him and Fidel Castro and their company in Cuba a good turn. They have added to the confusion as to what United States policy should be. That's not good for the United States. But it's fine for Cuba. Hence the cigar.

The two Senators may have no interest at all in Cuban cigars or any other kind. At heart, no doubt, they have only the good interest of the United States. But how is that interest being served by what the two good Senators are serving up to the American public?

One (Fulbright) proposes that we swallow Castro, however unpleasant the poison may be, simply because the Cuban dictator refuses to disappear. The other (Sparkman) compliments his colleague on his position,

which would liquidate our boycott policy, and then advocates that we maintain the boycott because it has not been altogether futile. This is known as talking out of both sides of the mouth simultaneously—a practice evidently useful to politicians.

However, Guevara, not to be underrated in the intelligence department, realizes that American policy is being fixed by neither side of either Senator. He expressed regret that Secretary Rusk persists in the established policy, which he interprets to mean that we are holding out for "the non-existence of our (Castro) government."

Guevara is to be complimented on his perception. Our embargo may not bring the Communist regime down. But it won't build it up either. And if it remains as weak as Guevara indicates it is (by his eagerness to restore trade with the United States which he once spurned), the day that he and Castro disappear may not be as remote as the Senators suppose.

So, for his perception, and before he goes, we would propose: Che, have a cigar.